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COURIER-JOURNAL

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Throng Gathers to Greet Pontiff

The Philippines — The amazing Pope John Paul II, who in less than 2½ years as pontiff has seen more of the world than Marco Polo in a lifetime, left these Pacific islands Sunday for Guam and the midway point of his 12-day Asian tour.

As in previous trips to Poland, the United States, France and Germany, the pope was greeted by tumultuous crowds at every stop of his swing which when over will have brought him to Pakistan, Japan and Alaska as well as to the Philippines and Guam.

John Paul covered a mix of spiritual, political and ecumenical matters in his various talks along the route. At his first stop, in Karachi, the pope praised that nation's efforts on behalf of "displaced peoples," without specifying that they are coming from neighboring Afghanistan which is occupied by Soviet troops.

Only 1.5 million of Pakistan's 75 million inhabitants are Christian and only half of those — one percent of the population — are Catholic. The rest are Muslim.

The Holy Father expressed pleasure at the "bonds of dialogue and trust which have been forged between the Catholic Church and Islam" in recent years.

But it was in the Philippines that the pope received the most spectacular welcomes of the first half of his Asian tour. He was hailed by more than a million at Cebu City where he condemned casual sex, upheld priestly celibacy and strongly reiterated a Roman Catholic ban on artificial birth control, divorce, abortion and polygamy.

He said Mass at the spot where the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan raised the cross of Christianity for the first time in the Far

East in 1521.

The pope also used the opportunity to appeal for the resumption of friendly relations with Communist China. He said he "hopes and wishes" he could visit the land which has no relations with the Vatican since 1949 when the Communists took over the mainland.

The papal overture appears to have been rejected. The Chinese government official ignored the pope's request and in Peking Catholic Bishop Michael Fu reacted without enthusiasm, noting that the Vatican still has relations with Taiwan.

While the Vatican was trying to steer clear of politics in the Philippines, apparent President Ferdinand Marcos had other ideas.

He publicly humbled himself before the Holy Father and apologized for



Pope John Paul II reviews a Filipino military band with Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos, left.

conflict between the Church and his administration. He called for an end to "petty bickering."

For his part, Pope John Paul, in the presence of Marcos, called for a restoration of human rights to this island nation.

The pope also told thousands of cheering workers

that they should join in unions to get their just rights.

The pontiff visited Indo-Chinese refugees in Bataan and urged world compassion and increased aid for the displaced persons.



Clergy Conference

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, left, addresses a group of more than 116 priests of the diocese, last week at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. The bishop was the principal speaker for the twin-session Clergy Conference which lasted three days.

Daniel Condon To Be Ordained

Rev. Mr. Daniel J. Condon will be ordained to the priesthood at noon on Saturday, March 7. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside at the ceremony at St. Mary's of the Assumption Church in Scottsville.

The ceremonies for Deacon Condon begin the last series of ordinations of graduates of St. Bernard's Seminary. Bishop Clark announced the closing of the seminary last month. A reception will follow the ordination in Hartmann Hall.



FATHER CONDON

Deacon Condon will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Patrick's Church in Victor at noon on Sunday, March 8. A reception at St. Patrick's School of Religion is also scheduled after Mass.

Deacon Condon is the son of Mrs. Patricia B. Middlebrook of Canandaigua and the late Hugh E. Condon. He attended Victor Central School and received a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from St. John Fisher College in 1976. He will graduate from St. Bernard's in May.

House of Hospitality, Monroe County Hospital, the Mt. Carmel Youth Group, Camp Stella Maris, Family Camp, Teen Seminar and Antioch.

His field education work was with Christ Presbyterian Church in Rochester and with the International Justice and Peace Commission for the diocese. His clinical pastoral education was completed at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Texas.

He has served at St. Mary's since September 1979.

Deacon Condon has worked with St. Joseph's

The United Nations has proclaimed 1981 the Year of the Disabled Person. Leaders from around the world have supported the move and have brought attention to the needs of the handicapped.

Next week's Courier-Journal will focus on the disabled — not only their problems but on their inspirational achievements. This special edition also will offer guidelines on how we can work together to improve living conditions for the disabled.

In addition to reports on individuals and how they have handled their handicaps, we will have messages from the Holy Father, Bishop Matthew H. Clark, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and others.

Remember to look for it next week — the Courier-Journal Focus on Disabled.

